

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

6. (original) A method of detecting contaminants with an optical mouse, the method comprising:

- aligning an optics module of a mouse with an imaging surface;
- obtaining a first image of the imaging surface, via application of substantially coherent illumination from the optics module to the imaging surface;
- analyzing the first image to identify an interference pattern associated with a contaminant; and
- identifying the interference pattern as a contaminant if a parameter of the interference pattern exceeds a threshold value.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein aligning an optics module comprises:

- positioning the imaging surface on a cradle configured to removably receive the mouse; and
- implementing the imaging surface as a substantially reflective surface.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 and further comprising:

- obtaining a second image of the imaging surface, via application of non-coherent illumination from the optical module to the imaging surface;
- wherein analyzing the first image comprises comparing the first image to the second image for differences between the first image and the second image to identify the interference pattern.

Claims 9-27 (canceled)

28. (new) The method of claim 8 wherein aligning the optics module of the mouse comprises:

- positioning the imaging surface on a cradle as a known imaging surface; and
- removably inserting the mouse into the cradle to align the at least one exposed surface of the optics module with the known imaging surface.

29. (new) The method of claim 8 wherein aligning the optics module with an imaging surface comprises operating the mouse over a navigation surface;

- wherein obtaining the first image comprises periodically obtaining a series of first images of the navigation surface, via application of substantially coherent illumination from the optical module to the navigation surface;

- wherein obtaining a second image comprises periodically obtaining a series of second images of the navigation imaging surface, via application of non-coherent illumination from the optical module to the navigation surface;

- wherein analyzing the first image comprises comparing the series of first images to the series of second images for differences to identify the interference pattern.